

A scenic landscape photograph of Vermont at sunset. The sky is a vibrant mix of orange, yellow, and dark grey clouds. In the background, a range of mountains is silhouetted against the bright sky. The middle ground is filled with a dense forest of evergreen trees. On the left side, a small cluster of buildings, including a red barn with a white roof, is visible. The foreground shows a field with tall, dry grass and a large, weathered log lying horizontally across the bottom.

VECAN

Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network

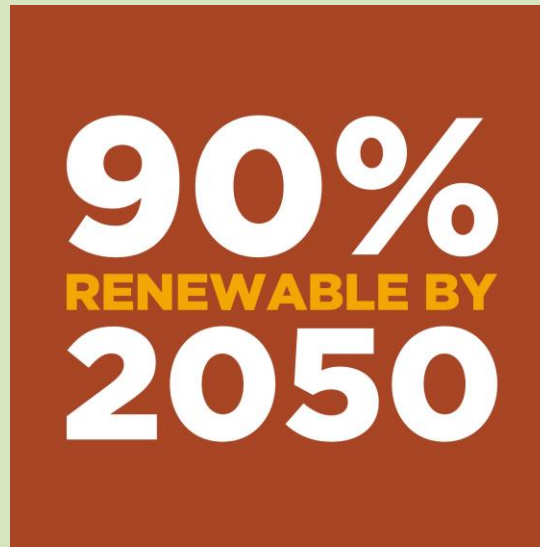
VECAN – Who We Are

VECAN – network of town energy committees working to help local level

- Information resource and clearinghouse
- Networking among communities and resource providers
- Direct technical assistance and education
- Regular communications



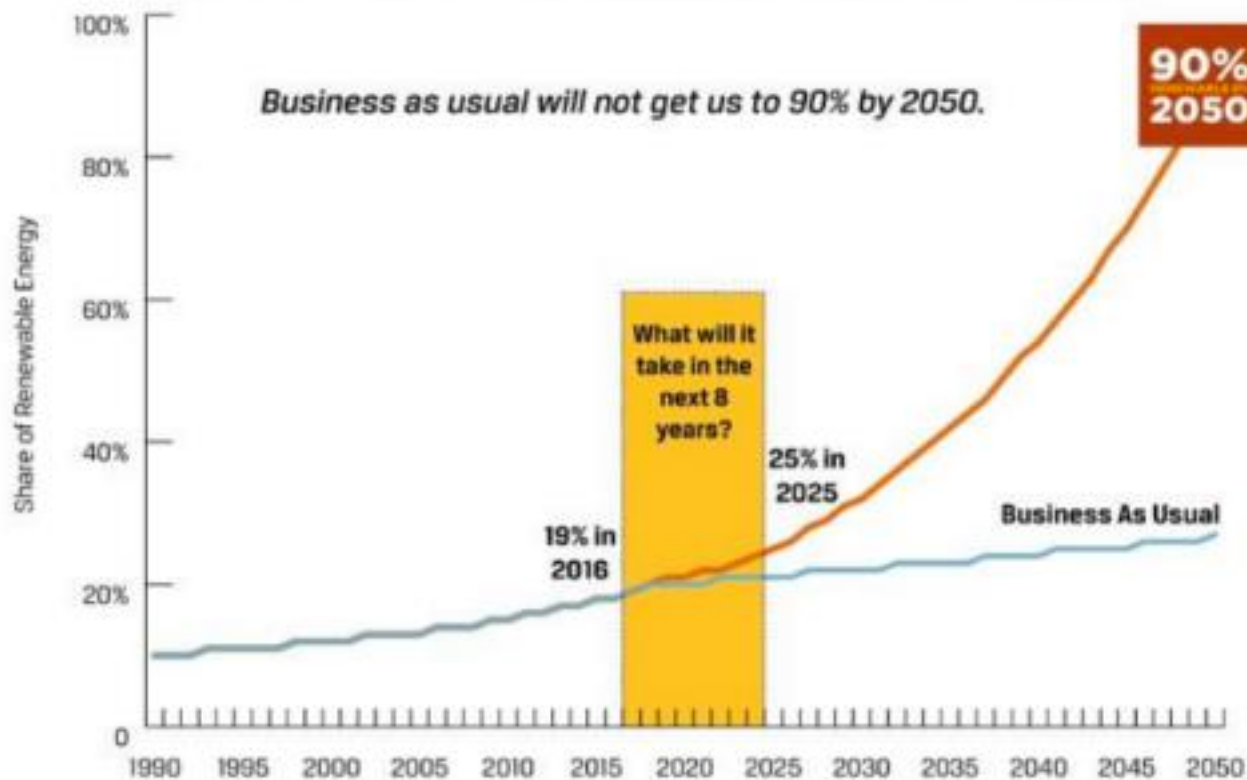
Vermont's Energy Goals



- Vermont's 2016 [Comprehensive Energy Plan](#) sets a goal of meeting 90% of the state's **total energy needs** from renewable sources by 2050
- This [goal](#) encompasses electricity, heating, and transportation

Energy Trajectory 1990-2050

The Long View: Business As Usual Compared to 90% by 2050 Scenario



Our Challenge?



“Tonight, an in-depth look at what each of us can do to help conserve electricity.”

Take Action! Form an Energy Committee

- Helping communities save energy and money through efficiency and renewable generation
- Over [100 energy committees in VT](#)
- Committees can take [many forms](#), from being officially appointed to a more ad hoc group of volunteers



Waterbury Energy Committee

How to form an energy committee

- Develop a [mission statement and goals](#)
- Create list of town's energy [opportunities and challenges](#)
- Conduct an assessment or [asset map](#) of town energy costs
- Brainstorm a list of [possible projects/ activities](#)
- Seek support from the town commissions and select board

Town Energy and Climate Action Guide



Vermont Energy & Climate Action Network

July 2017

Municipal Energy Use



Municipalities use energy in:

- [Buildings](#)
- [Streetlights](#)
- Water/wastewater treatment plants
- Vehicle fleets

Municipalities don't often know how much they are spending on energy!

A powerful example

South Hero Town Office

Problem

Town Office had notable heating problems

Town Clerk wearing winter coat inside with the heat on

Energy audit showed laundry-list of needs

Improvements

Local energy committee and RPC worked together in securing financing

Replaced furnace, doors, lights, then air sealed and insulated entire building

Result

Carbon footprint reduced by 25,300 pounds CO2

985 gallons fuel not used

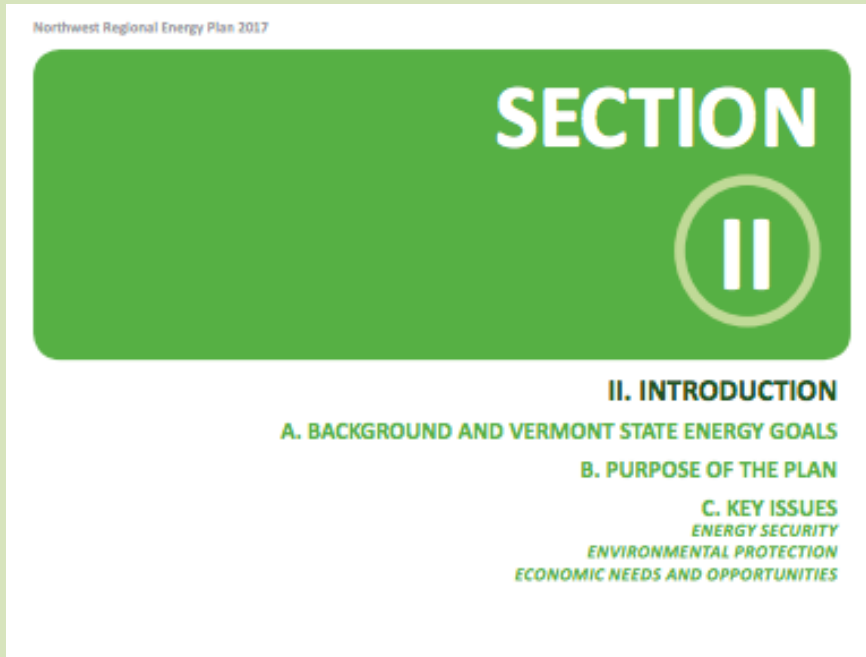
Taxpayers save \$3,162 annually

Municipal Streetlighting

- Improve lighting quality and cut costs
- Eliminating unnecessary streetlights
- Replace streetlights with LEDs
- Hartford cut costs by \$60,000 per year
- Efficiency Vermont offers [streetlight program](#)



Energy Planning and Act 174



- Under [Act 174](#), approved town and regional plans get “substantial deference”
- Establishes priorities for municipal energy investments and overall direction
- [Regional planning commissions](#) can provide assistance

Public Education

- Start a conversation
- Tabling
- Provide free efficient products to engage people
- Survey residents



Tabling at the Montpelier Farmers Market

Residential: Weatherization



ButtonUp
Vermont

- Engaging with residents to save energy

Two campaigns

- [Button Up Vermont](#): fall campaign to encourage residents to weatherize their homes
- [Weatherize Upper Valley model](#): free walk-throughs by qualified contractors

New Construction and Energy Codes

- Provide [energy code information](#) with building permit applications
- Certificate of Occupancy? Code certificate must be filed with town
- Efficiency Vermont has incentives and [assistance](#) to help homeowners exceed code



Transportation

- [EV charging stations](#)
- Promote [bike](#)/pedestrian paths
- Expand [public transit](#)



Marshfield Makes it Happen



The Plainfield, Marshfield and East Montpelier energy committees collaborated to help create a new commuter transit line from Montpelier to St. Johnsbury

Community Solar

- **Municipal level** – bringing [solar](#) to offset municipal energy costs
- **Community level** – working with solar vendors to help residents access solar
 - Centralized and decentralized location
 - Bulk purchase/group discount



Waterbury's Solar LEAP

Waterbury LEAP helped quadruple the amount of residential solar in less than two years through a creative, community campaign



Community Energy Dashboard

- [Website](#) to help communities understand and analyze energy at the [local level](#)
- Can be used as a [campaign tool](#)
- [Case studies](#) of positive examples
- Managed by the [Energy Action Network](#)



Vermont Climate Action Communities



Statewide initiative of VLCT that encourages municipalities to undertake actions to reduce climate impacts through efficiency and renewables

4 categories of municipal action:

- Municipal energy use
- Local policy development and implementation
- Residential and business engagement
- Energy and climate resiliency planning

Keys to Success

- Find project champions
- Build a sense of team among members
- Secure support of local government officials
- Think Big – Start Small!
- Emphasize benefits to health, time, and \$\$ savings



Further Resources

- **New England Grassroots Environment Fund** – Up to \$5000 grants for small unincorporated groups – www.grassrootsfund.org
- **Efficiency Vermont** – Information on energy efficiency rebates and programs – www.efficiencyvermont.com
- **VECAN** – Energy committee listing and resources – www.vecan.net
- **Energy Action Network – Community Energy Dashboard** – Energy atlas map, stories, and campaign tool – www.vtenergydashboard.org
- **Renewable Energy Vermont** – Vermont Renewable Energy Business Listing – www.revermont.org
- **Strategic Energy Action Toolkit** – In Depth Implementation Guide for energy volunteers – <https://www.nhenergy.org/strategic-energy-action.html>
- **GoVermont** – Resources for transportation, carpooling, bike lanes, etc. – <https://www.connectingcommuters.org/>

Contact Us!

Johanna Miller
VNRC Energy Program Director
VECAN Director

jmiller@vnrc.org

802-223-2328 ext. 112

www.vecan.net

Ian Hitchcock
VECAN Coordinator

ihitchcock@vnrc.org

802-223-2328 ext. 118

Paul Markowitz
Efficiency Vermont

pmarkowitz@veic.org

802 540 7608

